








Facts about the West Nile Virus

-  The West Nile Virus emerged in the United States in the summer of 1999 when it was first identified in New York. The virus comes from the West Nile district of Uganda, where it was isolated in 1937. It is unclear how the virus spread to the United States. Most likely, birds or mosquitoes transported it.
-  Less than 1% of those infected with the West Nile Virus will develop severe illness.
-  Although anyone can get the virus, people over 50 and those with compromised immune systems have the highest risk of developing severe illness.
-  Symptoms of a mild infection include fever, headache, body aches, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. More severe infections include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation and tremors. Symptoms generally occur 3 to 15 days following the bite of an infected mosquito.
-  There is no specific therapy for West Nile encephalitis. As with all viruses, only symptoms can be treated and measures taken to prevent secondary infections. No human vaccine currently exists.
-  Very few mosquitoes (less than 1 out of 500) are infected with the virus. The chance that one mosquito bite will be from an infected mosquito is very small.
-  West Nile encephalitis is NOT transmitted from person-to-person. For example, people cannot get West Nile virus from touching or kissing another person who has the disease, or from a health care worker who has treated someone with the disease.

Where to get more information . . .

Bob Vann, Building Commissioner

City of St. Charles
2 E. Main Street
St. Charles, IL 60174
(630) 377-4406

Email - bvann@ci.st-charles.il.us
Web Site - www.stcharlesil.org

Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management, Inc.

P.O. Box 72197
159 Garden Avenue
Roselle, IL 60172
(800) 942-2555

Email - info@clarkemosquito.com
Web Site - www.cmosquito.com

Kane County Health Department

210 South 6th Street
Geneva, IL 60134
(630) 208-3801

Email - health@co.kane.il.us
Web Site - www.kanehealth.com

Illinois Department of Public Health

535 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761
(217) 782-4977

Email - mailus@idph.state.il.us
Web Site - www.idph.state.il.us

Centers for Disease Control

Public Inquiries/MASO
1600 Clifton Road, Mailstop FO7
Atlanta, GA 30333
(800) 311-3435
Web Site - www.cdc.gov



West Nile Virus And Mosquito Abatement Information

Dear Resident:

In response to last year's questions about mosquitoes and the West Nile Virus, we hope this brochure will address concerns you may have, answer some of your questions, and provide information on how everyone can play an important role in reducing the mosquito population and preventing human infections this summer.

The spread of the virus is nearly impossible to prevent because of the nature of the insects and their natural migration. Once an area is infected, the best way to combat the spread of the virus is by controlling the mosquito population and preventing bites. Both of these measures are important for everyone to keep in mind. Please read this brochure and feel free to seek out additional information on the referenced web sites or by calling the offices included inside. Please also be assured that the City will do all we can to keep you informed on the latest mosquito control efforts.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Klinkhamer
Mayor

2003 St. Charles Mosquito Abatement Program

Objective

To control nuisance mosquitoes, reduce the potential of mosquito-borne disease transmission and provide a comfortable and healthy atmosphere for residents.

Program Summary

The City of St. Charles has contracted with Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management, Inc., for our mosquito abatement program. Environmentally compatible mosquito control is accomplished utilizing an integrated pest management approach, including **larval control, biological control** and the strategic use of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency labeled and registered pesticides for **adult control**. The key is to concentrate on larval control, scientifically assess the adult population, and perform adulticiding only as needed.

Larval Control

Clarke employees conduct ongoing inspections to determine larval activity. Three helicopter prehatch treatments of historical breeding areas are scheduled for early May, mid-June and early July. Hand equipment and helicopters distribute Vectolex or 5% Abate Pellets. Larval development of mosquitoes in stormwater catch-basins generally begins in late June and takes about 10 days. Right-hand drive trucks are used to place Altosid pellets, an insect growth regulator, into the 4,700 street catch-basins, subdivision drains, roadside ditches, flood channels, ravines and other public rights-of-way. The pellets will be distributed in July, August and September. Each treatment lasts 30 to 40 days and prove very effective in controlling mosquitoes. Larvaecide spraying of retention ponds and other standing water areas is also conducted about every 10 days and proves very effective in controlling the mosquito population.

Biological Control

Natural enemies, such as predators and parasites, are also used to control larvae. Over 5,000 Gambusia affinis (mosquito fish) are distributed each year. The southern strain of this 2” minnow is used because it is unable to survive Illinois winters and compete with native species.

Adult Control

Once mosquito larvae development is controlled, there is still the factor of mosquito broods migrating into the community. Mosquitos can migrate 15 to 20 miles. Because of the spread of West Nile Virus, many surrounding communities that previously did not control mosquitoes have now initiated abatement programs. Ultra-Low-Volume (ULV) adulticide is also used to spray insecticide concentrates into microscopic particles that penetrate residential areas and contact-kill adult mosquitoes 300 feet downwind. These treatments are especially important during public health emergencies and when mosquitoes become intolerable. Mosquitoes are collected from 6 collection stations throughout the City. Two new Gravid traps will collect only the type of mosquitoes that carry the virus and will help detect and monitor the populations of this variety of mosquito. When the number of mosquitoes caught in the traps reach a certain level, additional spraying may be conducted.

Residents may call Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management’s Mosquito Hotline at 800-942-2555 (or the City at 377-4400) to report extreme mosquito annoyance, request information, report stagnant water or request notification of when trucks will be spraying in their neighborhoods. Standing water reports are referred to field inspectors, and mosquito annoyance inquiries are dispatched to the night crew that evening for resolution.

What You Can Do

Eliminate standing water in bird baths, ponds, pet bowls, wading pools, clogged gutters, hollow stumps, pool covers and other places in which mosquitoes might breed (it only takes 10 days).



Avoid being outdoors at dawn, dusk and early evening when mosquitoes are most active. If outdoors at these times, loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best. Wear shoes and socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt.



Apply mosquito repellent containing 25% to 35% DEET sparingly to exposed skin or clothing. Use a weaker solution on young children and do not spray directly on them--spray your hand and wipe it on exposed skin.



Check and repair holes or tears in window and door screens, including porches and patios.



Remember to protect pets that spend time outdoors. No vaccine is currently available for domestic animals. Although there is no evidence of human infection from animals, it is best to avoid bare-handed contact with sick animals.



Dead birds should be handled with gloves, sealed in plastic bags and disposed of with regular trash. It is not necessary to report the dead bird to the Health Department or Animal Control.



Keep informed. Contact information is included on the back of this brochure. We will do our best to pass along new developments, but also watch for updates in newspapers and on the web.